Proposal to start new channels for Doordarshan network

301. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start new channels for Doodarshan network;

(b) whether there is any proposal to borrow any foreign Satellite and to show programmes of U.S. channels on Indian T.V.; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) It has been decided in principle to introduce Second Channel Service from 16 additional cities subject to availability of funds.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to lease a foreign satellite for the purpose of distributing the TV services originating from any foreign country.

Inclusion of Manipuri in Eighth Schedule of Constitution.

302. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Manipuri people demanding inclusion of Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Consitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Matter is under consideration.

Report of Committee on Jharkhand

303. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee on Jharkhand matters has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made and what is Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee could not come to any unanimous conclusion. While the Expert Members of the Committee suggested a measure regional autonomy for the Chottanagpur and Santhal Parganas areas of Bihar and setting up of a Jharkhand General council as an apex body in the region, the representatives of the various Jharkhand groups represented in the Committee reiterated their demand for a separate State. The view of the Government of Bihar have been sought on the report. Government of India will formulate its stand on receipt of the views of Goverment of Bihar.

Third party involvement in negotiations with LTTE

304. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement made by the President of Sri Lanka Shri Premadasa seeking third party involvement in the negotiations with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE);